

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 15, 16 and 17 have been amended to merely clarify the invention, and claim 20 has been cancelled. Accordingly, Claims 1-17, and 19 remain pending.

The Examiner has rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite as not providing antecedent basis for the limitation "the receive data line." Claim 3 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for such limitation.

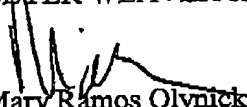
The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-6, 9-10, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,044,087) in view of Biggs et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,535,398). The Examiner has also rejected claims 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muller et al. in view of Biggs et al. and further in view of Chow et al. (6,169,742). The rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-3, 7-8, 11-12 and 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Towards this end, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 20 (and claim 20 has been cancelled). Likewise, independent Claims 15 and 16 have been amended in a similar manner. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 15, and 16 are patentable over the cited references.

The Examiner's rejections of the dependent claims are also respectfully traversed. However, to expedite prosecution, all of these claims will not be argued separately. Claims 2-14, 17, and 19 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 1 or 16 and, therefore, are respectfully submitted to be patentable over cited art for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 or 16. Further, the dependent claims require additional elements that when considered in context of the claimed inventions further patentably distinguish the invention from the cited art.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



Mary Ramos Olynick  
Reg. 42,963

P.O. Box 778  
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778  
(510) 663-1100